

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 201 – Personnel Safety

201.6 – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

When the first arriving Engine or Truck Company checks on scene and reports a working structure fire, the fire arriving Company Officer or Battalion 1 should advise dispatch to add a RIT assignment to the incident. A RIT assignment will include one additional Engine or Truck Company as the Rapid Intervention Team and one additional Squad. The Squad Bravo position shall join with the RIT Company and the paramedic will establish a personnel rehabilitation area. Dispatch should advise the responding units that they are being dispatched as the RIT assignment.

Once the determination has been made by the IC that there is no longer a need for RIT, the Company shall be released from the scene and return to service.

Responsibilities of the RIT on the Fire Ground

The crews responding and assigned to RIT must notify IC of their arrival and get in position as soon as possible. The Company Officer assigned to RIT should immediately designate a RIT staging area separate from the personnel staging area.

The Company Officer shall conduct a 360 walk-a-round of the structure when practical to identify any potential hazards and to identify which sectors the interior crews are operating in. Based on the information obtained during the 360 walk-a-round, the Company Officer shall also direct the RIT members to take proactive measures to facilitate potential rescue as the situation dictates. Additionally, the Company Officer shall develop a rescue strategy based on construction of the building and current fire conditions. This strategy shall include both a way to reach the personnel and a way to quickly remove them from the structure. The Company Officer needs to communicate his strategy to all members of the RIT.

Upon the completion of proactive measures, SFD members assigned to RIT shall remain in the RIT staging area with their SCBA and masks ready for immediate response to a MAYDAY.

At a minimum the following tools should be organized at the RIT staging area:

- RIT Bag
- Circular Saw
- Chain Saw
- Sledgehammers
- Assortment of hand tools, wire cutters, axes and TNT tools
- Rope and webbing

The RIT Company Officer and team members must include any other tools that would assist their rescue efforts based on the construction of the building and any other special hazards.

The Squad paramedic shall establish a rehabilitation area. Depending on the size and scale of the incident, additional personnel may need to be assigned to rehabilitation. In addition, the Squad paramedic, with additional support, should be prepared to receive any potential victim(s) from

the Hot Zone and continue with treatment and transport. Squad personnel assigned to rehabilitation are not required to wear full protective gear.